

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A system for mounting an accessory to a vehicle, comprising:

a linkage arrangement interconnected with the vehicle, wherein the linkage arrangement includes a pair ~~of~~ vertically spaced link members, wherein each link member defines an inner end and an outer end, wherein the outer ends of the link members are vertically spaced apart from each other;

a vertical pivot member mounted between the spaced apart outer ends of the link members;

an accessory interconnected with the vertical pivot member so as to be suspended from the ground and supported solely by system for mounting when the accessory is in the operative position thereof, wherein the accessory is movable about a vertical pivot axis defined by the vertical pivot member; and

a linkage mounting arrangement interposed between the inner ends of the link members and the vehicle, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement defines a horizontal axis pivot connection to which the inner end of each link member is secured;

a manually operated handle that can be raised and lowered to pivot the link members about the horizontal axis;

wherein pivoting movement of the link members about the horizontal axis pivot connection provides vertical movement of the link members and the vertical pivot member, and thereby the accessory, relative to the vehicle between a raised position and a lowered position.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement is constructed and arranged to enable the linkage arrangement and the accessory to be moved about the second vertical pivot axis to either a first side of the vehicle or a second side of the vehicle.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement includes upper and lower mounting brackets interconnected with the vehicle, and vertically oriented pivot pins that pivotably mount the link members to the upper and lower mounting brackets for movement about the second vertical pivot
5 axis.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement includes upper and lower mounting plates pivotably secured to the upper and lower mounting brackets, respectively, via the vertically oriented pivot pins, and wherein each link member is secured to one of the mounting plates via a horizontally
5 oriented pivot pin that provides vertical pivoting movement of the link member relative to one of the upper and lower mounting brackets.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the vertical pivot member comprises a vertical pivot bar that extends between and interconnects the outer ends of the link members.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the vertical pivot bar extends through a cylindrical sleeve, and wherein the accessory is mounted to the cylindrical sleeve for movement about the vertical pivot axis.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement is mounted to the rear of the vehicle.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement is mounted to a side of the vehicle.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the linkage arrangement includes a biasing arrangement for resiliently biasing the linkage arrangement toward the raised position.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the biasing arrangement includes a biasing member interconnected between the linkage mounting arrangement and one of the link members, wherein the biasing member is configured to resiliently bias the linkage arrangement toward the raised position.

12. (Currently Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for mounting an accessory to a vehicle, comprising:

a linkage including a first link member and a second link member, wherein the first and second link members are vertically spaced apart and wherein each link member defines an inner end and an outer end, and wherein the link member inner ends are vertically spaced apart from each other and the link member outer ends are vertically spaced apart from each other;

a linkage mounting arrangement interconnected with the vehicle, wherein the inner end of each link member is connected to the linkage mounting arrangement, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement defines a first, vertical pivot axis and a second, horizontal pivot axis, wherein the first and second pivot axes are defined by first and second pivot members, respectively; and

a generally vertical accessory mounting member interconnected with and extending between the outer ends of the first and second link members, wherein the accessory is mountable ~~mounted~~ to the accessory mounting member for connection to the vehicle through the first and second link members and the accessory mounting arrangement; and

a biasing member, interconnected between the linkage mounting arrangement and one of the link members, for resiliently biasing the linkage toward a raised position about the second axis.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the inner ends of the first and second link members are connected to respective first and second pivot plates, and wherein the second axis is defined by vertically aligned pivot pins forming a part of the linkage mounting arrangement, wherein the vertically aligned pivot pins extend through openings in the first and second pivot plates.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement includes a vertical axis pivot connection to which the inner end of each link member is secured, wherein the vertical axis pivot connection provides pivoting movement of the link members about a second vertical pivot axis spaced inwardly from the first-mentioned vertical pivot axis.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the accessory is interconnected with the vertical pivot member via an accessory mounting arrangement defining an inner end interconnected with the vertical pivot member and an outer end to which the accessory is secured, wherein the accessory is located outwardly of the vertical pivot axis.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the accessory is mountable~~mounted~~ to the accessory mounting member via an accessory mounting arrangement that is pivotable about a third, generally vertical pivot axis defined by the accessory mounting member.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~22~~13, wherein the accessory is interconnectable~~interconnected~~ with the accessory mounting member via an accessory mounting arrangement defining an inner end interconnected with the accessory

5 mounting member and an outer end to which the accessory is secured, wherein the accessory is located outwardly of the accessory mounting member.

24. (Withdrawn)

25. (Withdrawn)

26. (New) The system of claim 2, further comprising a brace that supports the handle and the accessory on the vertical pivot member.

27. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the biasing member comprises a gas spring cylinder.

28. (New) The system of claim 13, further comprising a manually operated handle that can be raised and lowered to pivot the link members about the horizontal axis.

29. (New) The system of claim 28, further comprising a brace that supports the handle on the vertical pivot member.

30. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the brace is also configured to support the accessory on the vertical pivot member so as to be suspended from the ground and supported solely by system for system when the accessory is in the operative position thereof.

31. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the biasing member comprises a gas spring cylinder.